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# THE BENEFITS AND PITFALLS OF POST-MORTEM COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY IN FORENSIC EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 145 CASES

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## Highlights:

- PMCT complements EE results when no autopsy is performed
- PMCT can reveal a cause of death hidden from EE.
- PMCT can strengthen a presumed diagnosis based on the clinical findings of EE.
- Some specific injuries can be missed by PMCT.
- The exclusion of traumatic lesions on PMCT is a key point to assess natural death.

## ABSTRACT

*Objective:* Nowadays, Post-mortem Computed Tomography (PMCT) has become an integral part of Forensic practice. The purpose of the study was to determine PMCT impact on diagnosis of the cause of death within the context of the external examination of the body, when autopsy has, at first, not been requested.

*Material and methods:* We reviewed the records of 145 cases for which unenhanced PMCT was performed in addition to the external examination of the body from January 2014 to July 2015 at the [name deleted to maintain the integrity of the review process]. We confronted final reports from forensic pathologist to the corresponding PMCT reports. Data were collected in a contingency table

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